
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 14

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA
Saturday, March 24, 1990
Manatee Civic Center
Palmetto, FL

I don't know how Dave and Steve do this every week. I just sent the last issue out two days ago and here I am again. Welcome to every one once again. Even though its only been a week, there is lots going on. This PWF card I attended was combined with Rob Russen's IWA group. Besides that report, I'll have "Cosmic Clothesline" with Jersey Joe Mullins and hopefully, a live report from St. Louis 3/24 where Ric Flair was to lose the NWA title to Lex Luger. The regular features will fill out this issue. I once again have put my fan biography on the back burner. Need to see if there is enough interest first.

The next issue will be a live PWF report from the Eddie Graham Sports Complex as they will try once again to return on 4/6. So that will be the date for next issue. We'll have a review on Wrestlemania as well as Evan Ginzburg and Mike Terry's columns as well. Things will start to get hectic around here in about 9 months. Yeah, you got it. Ron and Cheryl are about to enter that twilight zone called PARENTHOOD. Expecting date is Halloween. Maybe we'll call him Jason the Terrible. Hey Lance, how about some tips on how to juggle everything. (Without dropping the baby.) Just think. Me and Klon's kids will be able to wrestle together. Wait a minute, his wife Elaine is having a girl. Keep quiet Zinger!

"Arena Report" comes out twice a month at the price of 75¢ per issue. A number appears at the top left corner indicating how many issues you have remaining. All subscriptions, renewals, letters and results may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct. Lake Mary, FL 32746. I have been doing some checking on getting "Arena Report" T-shirts made up. I need to know how many of you would be interested in purchasing these fine garments. They would sell for \$12.00 a piece. Let me know. I'm not ready to take orders. I just want to see if it would be worth doing. Let's return to the Gulf Coast and get those TV cameras rolling for a PWF and IWA Tv taping. They taped four hours of TV so my format will be a little different than usual.

First Hour: Derrick Dukes beat Joe Pederio. 2) Cousin Luke pinned Grizzly Bear Ray and after they shook hands. This sets up their forming a hill-billy tag team later in the show. 3) Preston Steele billed as the Ultimate Male with valet Noel beat Dennis Knight. Steele was trained by Dom DeNucci. 4) Terminator beat Wild Thing. 5) Bambi and Peggy Lee Leather went to a draw at 10:47. Bambi was billed as the IWA Ladies Champion. Best heat so far as match was decent. ** 6) Kerry Von Erich beat Bob Cook in 5:00 with the iron claw. * $\frac{1}{4}$ Cook took a Cactus bump on the back of his head. ...Lee Marshall then conducted an interview with Kerry Von Erich who actually sounded okay but he didn't look it. Maybe I need that glazed eyes look. Kerry talked about Lawler and getting the Unified Title.

Second Hour: Jules Strongbow beat Hollywood Rob. 2) Lou Perez downed Robert Fuller via DQ as Manager Captain Slinker interfered. Fuller did a great job of getting heat. * $\frac{1}{4}$ 3) Brickhouse Brown over Wild Thing.

4) Steve Keirn beat Coconut Kid and Lawler was out doing commentary.
5) Tommy Rogers and Hurricane Walker beat Dennis Knight & Greg Labonti. Rogers looked super. 6) Jerry Lawler downed Robbie Idol. He was shelling out the barbs. At one scruffly looking dude, "Does your probation officer know your out tonight.? Keirn came out with a pizza for the announcers and was scouting Lawler. Jerry said, "You may be a pizza delivery man in your full time job but not tonight." Statement could have been true about any of the other Florida guys. Lawler won with a piledriver and then Keirn had to clear the ring.

Third Hour: 1) Terminator beat Bounty Hunter #2 (Tim Parker). 2) Preston Steele pinned Bodyguard Mark. You think Liz is a bad actress? You should see this Noel. 3) Cousin Luke & Grizzly Bear Ray over Idol & Hollywood Rob. 4) Kerry Von Erich beat Bounty Hunter #1 with a discus punch. He also nailed Stinker with one. * 5) Derrick Dukes and Brickhouse Brown went to the time limit but referee awarded it to Dukes and after, Slinker and Brown left Derrick laying. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Tommy Rogers beat Coconut Kid.

Fourth Hour: Lou Perez beat Joe Pederro. 2) Bambi & ? over Leather & Penelope Paradise. 3) Hurricane Walker over Bodyguard Mark. 4) Robert Fuller beat Tim Parker sans the mask. 5) Jules Strongbow beat Bob Cook with an Indian Deathlock. * 6) Jerry Lawler beat Steve Keirn on a count out at 9:55. Kerry was at ringside at the beginning until "The King" made the ref tell him to leave. The two were brawling outside and Keirn was hammering Lawler with chairs and post shots. But Lawler climbed in before the ten count. Another quip from Lawler, "Last time I saw a body like that, there was a harpoon sticking out of it." pointing to a rather large woman.

Palmetto Notes

Wayne Coulter, the PWF figurehead was the ring announcer. These were announced as IWA tapings. Who knows where they'll be seen... Lee Marshall and Diamond Dallas Page reunited from their AWA days to be the broadcast team for these tapes... There were 780 people at the start (8:00) but by the time Lawler vs. Keirn came on there were about 300. The show ended at 12:30. A loooong night.... They had an autograph session from 7:00-8:00 and the first wrestler I saw when I walked in was Kerry, the man I expected not to see at all... Rogers, Walker, Steele, Perez, Strongbow, and Bambi were signing autographs... Between the 2nd and 3rd hour, Kerry was having his picture taken with fans for 5.00 a pop to benefit the Foster Children Foundation. I sure hope Russen wasn't trying to raise Kerry's guarentee money.... Out of all of them, Tommy Rogers easily looked the best.... Lawler is a great showman but Von Erich was the star of this show. The fans loved him... They annoned the legendary Al Costello before the show. The former Kangaroo lives in the area... I met Shannon Rose who hosts a cable TV wrestling show in Tampa. The amazing thing is that Shannon is only 15 years old... Most underated guy on the card has to be Bob Cook. A heck of a worker...

Ramblings

The main news once again comes from the group that seems to mystify us all: the NWA. Rumors were rampant and as a matter of fact a lock that Flair would lose the title to Luger in St. Louis 3/24. But Jim Herd felt that too many people knew about the change so wanted to switch it to a night earlier in Chicago. Now there are so many stories going around as to what really happened so I'll do the best I can to sort this out. Flair was under the assumption that the belt would change in St. Louis when he arrived in Chicago. When he got to Chi-Town he saw people like Bill Apter, etc. ~~People you would see~~

People you would see at an important show. Flair was then told about the change in plans. He was needless to say, furious. Luger hadn't even been told yet. I'm sure things weren't ironed out even before their match as correspondent Steve Sims told me there was a ten minute inter-mission before the main event. Well, Flair said he wouldn't drop it in Chicago so on we go to St. Louis. Apparently, Herd and Flair had a huge blowup there as well and it ended with Ric's lawyer saying he wouldn't drop the strap there as well. Something about a clause in Ric's contract which states he must agree to the switch. Herd flew back to Atlanta and told agent Wahoo McDaniel to try to run things smooth. So everything is still in limbo. In talking with some other observers on the subject, it's almost inevitable. When this thing is over, Ric Flair will no longer be in the NWA.... Another subject concerning Flair is that he blew up in a dressing room Tuesday night when he was told that Paul E. Dangerously was hired back. That is not a definite but it looks like it will happen. He would manage Mark Callas when he returns from Japan.... They drew 5,000 plus in St. Louis for the same card as Chicago. (Results in Correspondent Reports).... Robert Fuller in PWF full time after quitting Jarrett's group. Expect Brian Lee to follow.... Ray Candy also in as a face.... Suncoast Pro Wrestling running a show in Palmetto on 4/20 with Gator Gilmore (?) billed as Southern Champion meeting Abdullah the Butcher (doubt he'll show) Bob Orton vs. Brian Blair, Fantastics meeting Nasty Ned Brady (TBS jobber) & Masked Superstar (picture on flyer is Eadie, yeah sure.) Jumbo Berreta, Brady Boone, and TBS jobber Paul Drake also listed.... Dick Slater and Bobby Fulton along with Buddy Landell no showed IWA taping.... Talk about making Bobby Eaton the fourth Horseman, firing Stan Lane and using Cornette won't happen. If they can't be together, they'll leave.

Correspondent Reports

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

March 17, 1990

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna & Ted Field

- 1) Tito Santana used the flying forearm to beat Buddy Rose in 10:25.
- 2) Mark Young downed Pete Doherty with a sunset flip in 8:42.
- 3) Earth - quake beat Ron Garvin in 7:34 after a powerslam and two elbow drops.
- 4) Rockers and Hercules beat Powers of Pain & Mr. Fuji in 14:56 when Herc hit Fuji with the chain while the Master was going for salt.
- 5) Paul Roma beat Bob Bradley with a powerslam at 10:24.
- 6) Jimmy Snuka beat Bad News Brown via DQ in 6:07 as Bad News pushed ref Morella into a charging Superfly.
- 7) Ultimate Warrior & Jake Roberts beat Akeem & Ted DiBiase in 11:29 as Warrior pressed and splashed Akeem. Heat was incredible. Att: 7,500

Madison Square Garden

New York, NY

March 19, 1990

Correspondent: Dave Wolf & Elyse Zois

- 1) Jim Powers beat Mike Sharpe with a powerslam. Dud
- 2) Hercules made Black Bart submit to a backbreaker. -***
- 3) Orient Express beat Demolition via count out. Tanaka looked great here. **
- 4) Koko Ware over Frenchy Martin Dud
- 5) Earthquake pinned Hacksaw Duggan after Jimmy Hart interfered. -*
- 6) Rick Martel and Bret Hart went to a draw in which only the last three minutes were decent. *½
- 7) Dino Bravo beat Brutus Beefcake on a count out. Dud
- 8) Tugboat Thomas beat Pez Whatley. Dud
- 9) Ultimate Warrior beat Curt Hennig with the gorilla slam and splash. **

(reports continued on page 5)

*** COSMIC CLOTHESLINE ***

by Jersey Joe Mullins

So, what happened? Did Dave Meltzer "fly" like Jimmy Snuka off the top of the cage? Did "Silo" Mike Gunter get left behind in the cock-pit of the Steve Sims-Dan Reilly Lear? Did Jeff Zinger and Harry White disguise themselves as a pair of the Road Warriors' Roos? (And if so, who was the foot and who was the stub?) And what about Steve Beverly, Lance LeVine, Wade Keller, and Ron Lemieux? They were all involved! Yet, why have we never seen a report of this bizarre incident in their bulletins, until now? Yes, exactly what did take place when a bunch of WrestleWar'90 "Get Together Guys" ducked out of Greensboro the night before the NWA'S WILD THING, picked up some other guys along the way, flew to Detroit (dressed up as former and current NWA stars...and one famous Roller Derby "incarnation"), and did a mass "run-in" at Joe Louis Arena only moments before NBC's Hogan-Savage-Buster Douglas MAIN EVENT went on the air!*

What happened that Friday night nobody could have predicted, since the odds were infinitesimal--at least ten zillion to one--that the "Get Together Guys" would get caught in a (once in a billion lifetimes) TUTI FRUTI TIME & SPACE-WARP CONTINUUM (named after its Italian astrophysicist founder, Dr. T. T. Fruti, PhD.), and that they would be ripped anatomically out of Joe Louis Arena and projected forward in time and space, forward into the future, to another wrestling dimension, specifically forward to the SkyDome in Toronto, on April 1, 1990, where WrestleMania VI's main event between Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior was... in progress!

Was the SkyDome crowd a little pumped-up? (Was this a Trump Casino crowd? Do hounds bay when they've got the scent?) How about...the SkyDome fans were so hysterical when Hulk and Warrior started pushing each other that even the massive security force was not paying attention when the "Get Together Guys" appeared suddenly from out of nowhere...at the exact same moment that a bunch of Klingons, Hitler, King Kong, Moby Dick, a Minoan Minotaur, Godzilla, some Gremlins, Ben, Downtown Bruno, Homer's Cyclops, "The" Werewolf, and Jaws also "materialized" from out of nowhere and dropped menacingly into the ring!

Were these intruders the "Waaar-reee-orrrrs!" The Ultimate Warrior had been snarling and grunting and growling about the past few months during Mean Gene Okerlund's WM6 "Updates?" Had The Warrior some kind of special premonition that this Tuti Fruti time-warp thing was coming down? Or was the Hulkster correct in his suspicions that The Warrior had "turned", and was now dancing with the Dark Forces in the Universe and had actually summoned a few of the most diabolical creatures in the history of the world (and outer space!) to help him wipe-out Hulkamania? Or had Vince McMahon (with his many connections and his penchant for geeks, freaks, and "animal type" gimmicks) cooked up all of this with the help of his powerful new super-secret "booking computer" as reported by my West Coast cousins Jeff Mullins and his identical twin brother Jack Hammeroyd (and parodied by cartoonist Bill "Potshot" Kunkel) in RWRB Pro Wrestling Sushi #16, #17, & #18?

And what about the WrestleWar'90 guys? How did they fit into all this? Were they innocent bystanders vortexed into the general cosmic scheme of things? Or had they been "brought in" for a purpose? And if so, on whose side would they stand? For that matter, on whose side were all the displaced paranormals? No doubt these and other questions will all be answered Sunday, April 1st, but be sure not to blink, 'cause Tuti Fruti Continuums last only a second or two... (Meanwhile, let 'em dry and hang 'em out to grow! See you again in Arena Report Vol. II, Number 16.)

Correspondent: Steve Sims

1) Mike Rotunda beat Cactus Jack in 9:41 with a rollup. At one point, Manson got his head caught in the ropes when he sent out of the ring. It caused a nasty gash to his head and he had to go for stitches after bout. *** 2) Rock N' Roll Express downed the Freebirds in 13:14 as Morton scored a flying body press on Steve Casey. Afterwards, to continue this feud, Garvin and Casey DDT'd Morton twice. ** 3) Norman pinned Kevin Sullivan with a legdrop. * 4) Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk beat Midnight Express as Z-Man pinned Eaton after a dive over the top rope onto a prone Bobby. Neither team had the U.S. Tag belts. This group has more problems with losing title belts. ** 5) Steiners beat Wrecking Crew with same finish as everywhere, Rick pushes Bloom off top rope into Enos and Scott covers him for pin. *** 6) Road Warriors beat Doom when Hawk pinned Simmons after a clothesline in 9:39. ** 7) Ric Flair pinned Lex Luger in 20:13 after Ole Anderson hit Lex in the head with Woman's feeble shoe. *** Att: 6,500

Beeghly Center

Youngstown, OH

March 24, 1990

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Red Rooster beat Pez Whatley in 11:11. Pez hit a flying burrito but only got two count. While he argued with the ref, Taylor came from behind and pinned him. Lots of rooster calls. C* 2) Bad News Brown over Hillbilly Jim in 7:24 as Jim missed a charge in the corner and Brown used the ropes to pin him. D* 3) Jim Powers upset Black Bart with a powerslam at 11:47. C- 4) Demolition downed Powers of Pain via count out in 11:41. All were brawling outside until Ax jumped in to beat the count. No managers with P.O.P. C* 5) Greg Valentine and Tito' Santana went to a draw at 17:04 (Talk about shaving time. They better watch out or they'll nick themselves.) Greg wanted the ring announcer to announce him as Greg "The Pelvis" Valentine. C* 6) Hacksaw Duggan over Rick Rude via DQ when "Ravishing" shoved Hebner in 10:09. Fans went nuts for Hackman. All foam 2X4s were sold out. Att: 5,500

Letters To The EditorLex Luger

Awards time has come and gone, but I'd like to give out a special one. The Paul Orndorff award for most turns by a major star goes to Lex Luger. Count them.

Back in early 1987, the Four Horsemen kicked out Ole Anderson and invited Luger to join their prestigious group instead of becoming a possible challenger for Flair's title. Luger accepted and told us all how wonderful it was to be a Horsemen. Luger the heel won the U.S. title for the first time and terrorized the faces with his "human torture rack". Around a year later, he punched out J.J. Dillon, told the Horsemen he was through with them, began terrorizing the heels with "the human torture rack", and accepted the cheers of the adoring multitudes. He also began a feud with Flair, ending with his almost winning the title.

Then came 1989 and new World Champion, ex-WWF star Ricky Steamboat. Three months later, Flair had the title back, this time as a babyface. As the world title turned, so did Lex Luger, telling us all that HE was the number one contender, telling the not quite so adoring multitude where to go, and warming up the Flair-Luger feud. Now in 1990, just like it looked like ex-friend and ally, Sting was going to get a turn at the title, he was injured, ostensibly by the "new" Horsemen. And who comes in, beating up the Horsemen and telling us he was the number one con-

tender all along? Why its none other than Lex Luger, warming up the old feud and playing again to the adoring multitude. Does he get the title this time? Well no, he has to leave the ring to go to Sting's defense, because even though Sting is still not his friend, he can't stand to see an injured man attacked. How touching.

How long do you think the new Lex Luger is going to last? Probably Sting will come back to claim the title that should have been his on Feb. 25th. Probably Luger will claim that he is the number one contender and to heck with friendship and the fans. Or is it just barely possible that the NWA management will see that in Lex Luger, they have the potential for the babyface superstar they so desperately need to get the fans back to the arenas? I somehow doubt it.

By the way, you said that Jim Ross thinks that Terry Taylor would make a good fourth Horseman. He probably would. I think Ted DiBiase would make a better one.

Elyse Zois
Union, NJ

G-Boro Issue

It sounds like you had a great weekend in Greensboro. I was hoping that Lex would take the title. I have followed Luger since he first started and I think he has the ability to be a good champion. But I don't blame him for not wanting it on a short term basis.

I think both the NWA and WWF need new champions. Hogan and Flair have had them long enough. I still wonder what will happen at Wrestleman. Something tells me Vince may have some surprises, after all, its April Fools Day.

Did Jim Ross really say Terry Taylor would make a great Horseman? I'd like to see Taylor in the NWA but I don't see him fitting into the Horsemen.

Clint Bennett
Moultrie, GA

I loved the "Gala in Greensboro" issue of "AR". It was simply outstanding! I felt as if I was right there in G-Boro with you guys. Hopefully, that time might not be too far off. Keep up the great work.

Andy King
Middletown, NY

I just got #12 of "Arena Report" the other day, it was a great issue! Sounds like you had a blast at the pay-per-view in Greensboro "The Wild Thing". I wish I was there. It seems to me that Luger is never going to get the belt now.

Larry Englebry
Lorain, OH

Rundling

Did you hear Sean Mooney say that Piper will not be at MSG on 3/19 due to technical difficulties? Either that or I didn't hear him right. Bret Hart is replacing him against Rick Martel. Do you know what the story is on Piper? Your report about Andre at the airport was a downer. I hope he turns good again soon and goes out in a kind and respectful way with all the fans good wishes. I'd much rather see him looking good and happy in a commercial than trying to get into and around a ring in obvious discomfort. He's a heel you can't even enjoy hating.

Marilyn Rundle
New Paltz, NY

RL- Piper is acting in a series starring with Jesse Ventura. They play two cops who are former wrestlers. He'll miss all his dates until Wrestlemania. Then, who knows.

Nice Guys

I liked your recap of your trip to Greensboro. Road trips usually provide a lot of fun experiences, some of which you can print, and many more which you can't. However, I do have to take issue with your remark that you doubted the WWF guys would be as open as the NWA guys were.

I have never had any problem talking to any of the WWF guys, and that includes the wrestlers, road agents and ring crew. I feel the reason this is so is because they trust me, and they respect me. Vince McMahon frowns on his employees talking to reporters, especially newsletter reporters. That is because newsletters tend to print too much truth for comfort, or they feed unsubstantiated lies. A few examples that come to mind--the Hart Foundations negotiations with the NWA, the firing of Koko Ware, and the in fighting between the Rockers. I have yet to read the truth behind any of these, and in the case of Shawn and Marty, most of what has been said or printed has been untrue. It is because of this that many of these guys keep quiet.

Admittedly I have an advantage, and it's not that I'm a woman. I got to know these guys as friends first, and then came the newsletter. But they also know they can trust me. A degree in journalism from Marquette University taught me these two things: don't print that which you don't know to be true, and respect your sources and they'll always be your sources.

In defense of the WWF guys, they are, with few exceptions, a good group of men and woman. I am lucky enough to consider some among my closest friends. They do tend to be cautious, but it goes with the job. I think if you give them the chance, they will surprise you.

Keep up the good work with "Arena Report" and I hope Lake Mary suits you well enough to stay there for awhile.

Marianne Ryan
Chicago, IL

RL- Thanks for the letter Marianne, hope you didn't mind me running this letter but your right. This presents a side from the WWF. We rarely hear about fans talking to Titan's guys. It'll make me think again before opening my mouth. Marianne does a great column called "From the Parking Lot" which tells of escapades outside the ring. Write to editor Dayna Euhus for more info at 1215 W. Sherwin. #2 Chicago, IL 60626.

Final Word

Thanks once again to all who helped with this issue. Now can I take a two week break? Thank you. I'll be back in two from the beautiful Eddie Graham Sports Complex. Beautiful? Maybe old, dilapidated I got to go.

See ya,

Ron

Late Note- If Flair doesn't lose the strap within the next week, he'll probably drop it at the next Omni card which is being taped for TBS. ... Chris Cruise filling in for fired Tony Gillam as ring announcer. Just call him "Odd Job" Cruiser.